# 2010 ARRA Title I School Improvement – Family and Community Engagement Grant

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

All Title I schools designated as in need of improvement are required to submit a twoyear school improvement plan to their state education agency.

The plan must address the academic issues that led to the improvement status and must describe strategies for increasing student achievement.

# As part of the school improvement plan schools <u>must</u> implement at least <u>three</u> components of <u>parent involvement</u>:

- notify parents of the school's improvement status;
- ➤ collaborate and communicate with parents (*provide opportunities for parents* to be involved in developing and approving the school improvement plan); and
- include "<u>effective</u>" parent involvement activities in the plan.

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Schools must notify parents in writing of the school's improvement status and must collaborate with parents to develop and implement an improvement plan in which parents, school staff, and students share responsibility for improving academic achievement.

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A parent involvement policy must include parents in regular, reciprocal, and meaningful communication about student learning and other school activities.

The local education agency "shall promptly provide to a parent or parents (in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand) of each student enrolled in an elementary school or a secondary school identified for school improvement" information about section 1116 requirements.

In addition, schools are required to *include strategies that promote* "effective" parent involvement, though "effective" strategies <u>are</u> not defined.

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"Effective" suggests that the parent engagement program impact should be measurable; therefore, maintaining data regarding "effective" strategies should be kept.

#### Section 1118

It recommends involving parents in decision making:

- √ by participating in advisory committees,
- ✓increasing their understanding of topics such as standards and monitoring of their child's progress, and
- √helping them work with educators to improve achievement.

It also recommends educating teachers and school personnel on the value of parent contributions, coordinating parent involvement activities with other programs, and identifying resources for parent involvement.

#### The No Child Left Behind (**NCLB**) Act of 2001 views parent involvement as a key intervention for raising student achievement and bringing schools out of improvement

status.

#### Grant Information

- \$25,000/school using SI Status public release of SI schools as of October 1, 2008
- Application available on the Common Logon
   Grants Management Online
   Applications
- □ Schools in 'Warning' are not eligible
- ☐ Grants open May 18, 2009
- Grant Title:

2010 ARRA Title I School Improvement – Family and Community Involvement Grant

#### **Grant Information Continued**

- Apply by June 5, 2008
- Schools that have their grants approved before June 15, 2009 will be able to draw down funds in July.
- The grant ends on June 30, 2010 and a Completion Report, will be due within 90 days of the grant closing date.

#### Grant Information Continued

- LEAs will apply for this grant on behalf of their schools.
- Each eligible school will have an allocation of \$25,000.
- For example, if a District has three eligible schools in improvement (Year I and beyond), it will write one grant and include the information specifically for each site on that one grant application no matter the SI label.

# Parent Engagement Grant Information Continued The following information should be evident in the grant application:

- Join a framework organization and/or be able to show how you are measuring the impact of your parent engagement as it affects student achievement.
  - (i.e.) NNPS, Solid Foundation, Family-Friendly Schools
- Establish or show evidence of a Parent/Family Involvement Action Team (parents, patrons, teachers)
- Appoint /identify an Action Team Chair (paid position)
- Conduct a needs assessment using resources from
  - NNPs (example)
  - Solid Foundations (example)
  - Family-Friendly Walkthrough data (AZ PIRC) example
  - Other (what may already be provided by your district)
- Attend Regional ADE or other Parent Engagement Training
- Create and implement a parent engagement action plan intended to have a positive impact on student achievement

## GRANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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#### Framework Organization

### ONE THAT WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING STRUCTURES:

TOOLS AND APPROACHES THAT WILL
HELP ENSURE THAT YOUR SCHOOL
WILL MEET AND EXCEED
THE REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 1118

### BASIC STEPS DOCUMENTED IN YOUR GRANT

I. FORM AN ACTION TEAM FOR
PARTNERSHIPS TO DEVELOP
EDUCATORS' AND PARENTS'
LEADERSHIP FOR PROGRAMS OF
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

INVOLVEMENT

2. WRITE A COMPREHENSIVE, GOAL-ORIENTED, ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN FOR PARTNERSHIPS LINKED TO YOUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS.

3. CREATE A COMMITTEE STRUCTURE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER AND KINDS OF PARTNERSHIP **ACTIVITIES TO REACH ALL FAMILIES IN WAYS THAT** PROMOTE STUDENT SUCCESS.

4. USE AN EVALUATION TOOL AND ANNUAL SURVEYS TO MONITOR THE QUALITY OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM, **TEAMWORK, EXTENT OF** INVOLVEMENT BY FAMILIES, AND **RESULTS FOR STUDENTS** 

5. OBTAIN ON-GOING
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO
KEEP IMPROVING YOUR
PROGRAM, PLANS, AND
PRACTICES OF PARTNERSHIP.

#### Parenting

Assist families with parenting skills and setting home conditions to support children as students. Also, assist schools to better understand families.

Communicating

Conduct effective communications from school-to-home and from home-to-school about school programs and student progress.

Volunteering

Organize volunteers and audiences to support the school and students. Provide volunteer opportunities in various locations and at various times.

Learning at Home

Involve families with their children on homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.

Decision Making

Include families as participants in school decisions, and develop parent leaders and representatives.

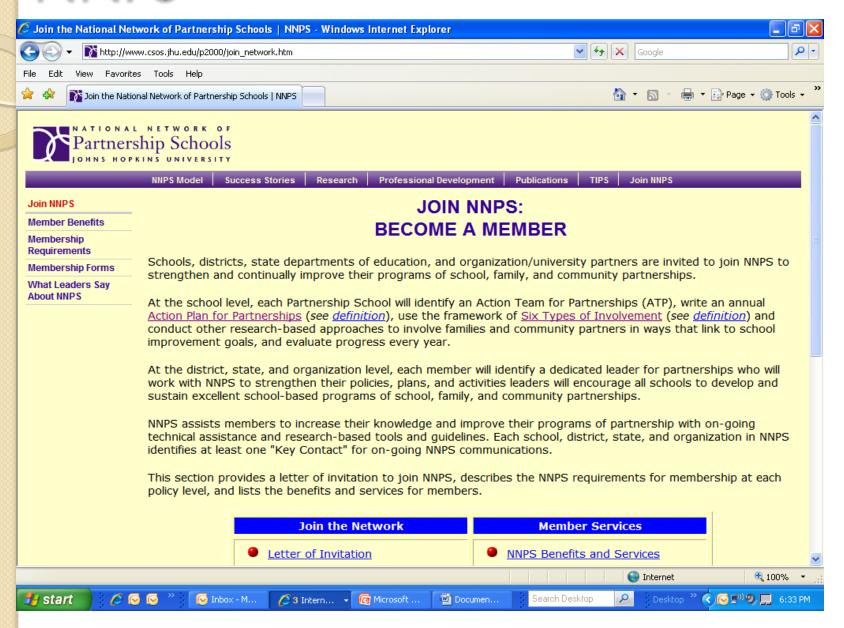
#### Collaborating with the Community

Coordinate resources and services from the community for families, students, and the school, and provide services to the community.

# **EXAMPLES** OF FRAMEWORK ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

- National Network of Partnership Schools
- Solid Foundation
- Family Friendly Schools
- There may be others of which you are aware or may be enlisting services which will provide the necessary support and documentation in matters of parent and family engagement for this ARRA school improvement grant (transparent funds).

#### **NNPS**



#### **NNPS**

- Create or identify an Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) including educators, parents, and community members.
- Write an annual One-Year Action Plan for Partnerships linked to school improvement goals.
- Use the framework of **Six Types of Involvement** to select family and community involvement activities that create a welcoming climate of partnerships and contribute to student learning and development.
- Allocate an annual budget for the activities in the annual plan for partnerships.
- Allocate time for an initial One-Day Team Training Workshop, and at least one hour per month for the ATP to meet, plan, coordinate, and evaluate activities
- Complete an annual UPDATE survey to evaluate progress and to renew school membership in NNPS for the next school year.
- Send \$200 to join NNPS for professional development on partnerships, and to receive the Handbook and other benefits and services.
- The annual renewal fee for schools is \$200. RENEWAL FEES ARE WAIVED FOR SCHOOLS THAT RETURN THE ANNUAL UPDATE SURVEY.

#### NNPS – WEBSITE INFORMATION

http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/

A parent engagement process within a web-based structure to assess, plan, implement, and monitor parent involvement at the school level



 The Solid Foundation program and the current fee structure, which is subject to change. Current fee structure: Path I and Path 2 - Each staff member trained as an External Partner pays a certification fee of \$200 (includes training and materials) for each level of certification and may then serve an unlimited number of schools in the paths for which he/she is certified.

 In addition, the school will pay \$50 per year maintenance fee for each school in Path I or Path 2. Parent Involvement Analysis (PIA) - if our organization chooses to provide PIA, the school will pay a one-time set-up fee of \$5,000 plus an annual maintenance fee of \$5 per school for which the system is available. Path 3 - if our organization chooses to provide Path 3, we will pay a licensing fee of \$6,500 for rights to the program, data system, and three-day training, plus travel expense if training is on-site.

- In addition, the school will pay \$100 per year maintenance fee for each school in Path 3.
- In keeping with Solid Foundation's philosophy and principles, our staff who serve as External Partners will present and comport themselves professionally, support schools in strengthening the sense of community among their constituents, and follow Solid Foundation's guidelines and procedures.

#### SOLID FOUNDATION WEBSITE

http://www.adi.org/solidfoundation/

#### Family Friendly Schools

Done

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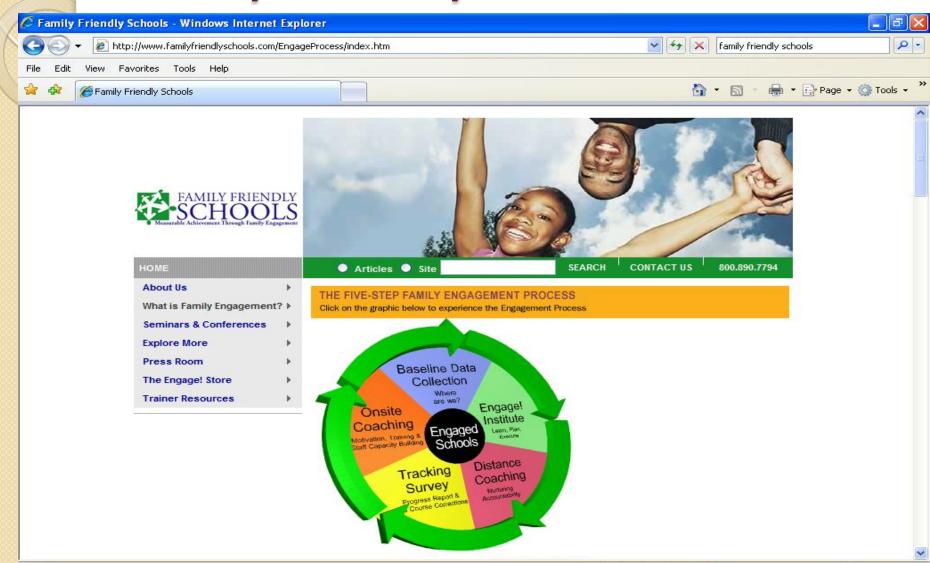
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#### Family Friendly Schools

- The **Engage! All Families** Institute offers a unique opportunity to create customized strategies based on data that identifies specific engagement "gaps" between schools and families. Closing these gaps results in better learning environments for all students' success.
- Over 150,000 families around the country have taken the Family Friendly Schools survey. Our survey is available online and in hard copy. We can provide your school teams with detailed reports that will equip them with invaluable ammunition to construct a Family Engagement plan that will improve the academic success of your students.
- Additionally, Family Friendly Schools works with you to connect present student achievement data to specific family engagement initiatives which ultimately benefits all children.

# Family Friendly Schools Website Information

http://www.familyfriendlyschools.com